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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 001254

NOFORN

SIPDIS

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TAGS PREL, PARM, KNNP, BH, SM, MK, GR, FR

SUBJECT: A/S GORDON'S MEETINGS WITH POLICY-MAKERS IN PARIS: A TOUR D'HORIZON OF EUROPE AND AFGHANISTAN

Classified By: Ambassador Charles Rivkin, for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (S) Summary. During Assistant Secretary Gordon's visit to Paris on September 11, he met with a number of French policy-makers including: El

AFGHANISTAN: A MAJOR PRIORITY

¶2. (C) Jean-David Levitte noted that while public opinion in France is opposed to the war in Afghanistan, the situation here is much calmer th

BOSNIA: FRENCH URGE TRANSFER TO EU AUTHORITY

¶3. (C) Levitte noted that of the five major conditions required to transfer authority in Bosnia from the UN High Representative to an EU High

KOSOVO AND SERBIA

¶4. (C) Levitte noted that the EULEX mission is having diplomatic problems with the Kosovar government and public after signing two technical p

MACEDONIA AND CROATIA

¶5. (C) Levitte expressed optimism that a new Greek government would be "more solid" and allow greater flexibility for progress in the Greek-Ma

CONCERN ABOUT TURKEY

¶6. (C) Levitte informed A/S Gordon that there had been no change in the French position advocating a "privileged partnership" between the Eurc

¶7. (C) Levitte agreed, but noted that Paris hopes that it will be the Turks themselves who realize that their role is best played as a bridge

RUSSIA AND GEORGIA

¶8. (C) A/S Gordon described the challenges and frustrations of the U.S.- Russia relationship, which is based on finding areas where we can wor

¶9. (C) Looking ahead on the energy front, Loras predicted that substantial Russian under-investment in energy extraction infrastructure was su

¶10. (C) Levitte and A/S Gordon discussed the "dangerous" precedent of ships being intercepted in Georgian waters. Sarkozy Advisor Damien Loras

IRAN: NEXT STEPS

¶11. (S/NF) Levitte noted that the Iranian response to the overture of President Obama and the West was "a farce," although Russia had received

NATO'S ENLARGEMENT AND STRATEGIC CONCEPT

¶12. (C) Levitte said that France was very pleased with the selection of Madeleine Albright to chair the "Group of 12," which will launch the g

VENEZUELA

¶13. (C) Levitte observed that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is "crazy" and said that even Brazil wasn't able to support him anymore. Unfort

¶14. (U) Assistant Secretary Gordon has cleared this message.

RIVKIN